

关于棉毛茛发表日期的引证

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摘要 本文明确了棉毛茛的发表日期应为 1834 年。因此, 无需对之进行名称的变动或提出保留建议。

关键词 棉毛茛, 发表日期, 引证

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On the Citation of the Date of Establishment of *Ranuncula membranaceus* Royle

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Abstract The paper clarified that date of establishment of *Ranunculus membranaceus* Royle is 1834. The recognition of the date make it unnecessary to change the name or to forward a proposal to conserve the name.

Key words *Ranunculus membranaceus*, Date of establishment, Citation

While preparing an index of specific names in *Ranunculus* from China, especially from Sino-Himalayan region on computer, I encountered a problem concerning the date of nomenclature of

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R. membranaceus Royle. According to the revisions of *Ranunculus* from some Asian countries worked out by L. Liou (in W. T. Wang, Fl. Reipubl. Pop. Sin. 28: 255~271. 1980), Riedl (in Ali & Nasir, Fl. Pakist. 193:136. 1991), W. T. Wang (in Bull. Bot. Res. Harbin. 15(3): 276~329. 1995), the citation of the date of the establishment reads as follows: *R. membranaceus* Royle, Ill. Bot. Himal. Mount. 53.1839. It means that Royle described this species in 1839. However, the epithet was used early in 1837 for a Africa tropics *Ranunculus* now generally recognized as the synonym of *R. pinnatus* Poir. (1804). It is clear that *R. membranaceus* Fresen. is a later synonym and is no longer used. Even though it is so, Royle's name is illegitimate due to later homonym according to Article 53.1 of the Tokyo Code (W. Greuter et al, 1994) because it is not conserved (Art. 14) or sanctioned (Art. 15).

Royle's name was treated as the synonym of *R. pulchellus* C. A. Mey var. *sericeus* Hook. f. et Thoms. by J. D. Hooker et Thomson for the first time (in Fl. Brit. Ind. 1:17. 1875). However, the species that Royle's name represents is very distinct from but related closely to the species *R. pulchellus* C. A. Mey in the light of the above mentioned revisions of *Ranunculus* from some Asian countries. In fact, this species differ from *R. pulchellus* C. A. Mey in having basal leaves linear-lanceolate or linear, entire, being distributed chiefly in Himalayan region (L. Liou, l. c.; W. T. Wang, l. c.). In contrast, *R. pulchellus* C. A. Mey has basal leaves elliptic to oblong, 3-7-toothed or lobed, occurs in the more northern area (L. Liou, l. c.; W. T. Wang, l. c.). Prof. W. T. Wang (l. c.: 285~286) made a combination and established a variety based on the name of *Ranunculus membranaceus* Royle.

If *R. membranaceus* Royle is maintained as a separate species, in any case a proposal to conserve the name is necessary because it seems desirable to avoid further name changes that would introduce an avoidable and therefore unwelcome situation. Luckily the last International Botanical Congress has opened the possibility of conserving names of species for the sake of nomenclatural stability, and has urged botanists to make full use of this opportunity. However, the below fact tell us that it is technically unnecessary: the name *R. membranaceus* Royle stands even without conservation.

Thanks to the kind help of Prof. B. Zimmer et W. Geuter, we were aware of some of the concerned literatures conducive to solving this problem. In Stafleu and Cowan's basic manual "Taxonomia literature" (ed. 2, vol. 4, p. 963. 1983), we can find that part of Royle's "Illustrations" that includes the protologue of *Ranunculus membranaceus* was published in march 1834 already, thus antedating *R. membranaceus* Fresen. by circ. 3 years.

There is therefore no need, and no justification, to either change the name of Royle's species or publish a proposal for having it conserved. In any case the correct citation of the name of Royle's species is necessary to the revisions of the genus in some Asiatic countries such as those mentioned above.

***Ranunculus membranaceus* Royle, Ill. Bot. Himal. Mount. 53. 1834 et 1839.**

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